

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East Valley/680 Communities is one of San Jose's neighborhood areas selected to be part of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative process. This document, the East Valley/680 Communities Neighborhood Improvement Plan, is the result of a year-long effort on the part of community residents, merchants and other stakeholders such as schools and community-based organizations to develop a "blueprint" for the improvement of their area. The shared vision which lays the foundation of this plan is to create a future where:

- * It is safe and easy to walk on neighborhood streets;
- * Housing is high quality, attractive and affordable;
- * Residents are secure from the threat of criminal and gang activity;
- * Private properties and public areas are well-maintained, well-lit, attractive and clean;
- * There are adequate community facilities and supporting services for people to interact, socialize and learn;
- * There are adequate open space, park and recreational opportunities for the community, especially for children;
- * There are businesses that support and foster a sense of community;
- * There are good schools providing quality educational experiences for children and adults.



Some of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee Members (NAC) of East Valley/680 Communities

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* People work together to support each other to improve our communities.

To help achieve this vision, a series of Goals and Objectives were identified. The overall goals are listed below. More specific objectives to match those goals are contained in Chapter 3 of this document.

1. Improve the overall appearance of the neighborhood.
2. Improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation throughout the area.

3. Enhance the condition and appearance of housing and businesses in the area.

4. Ensure that there are safe, attractive places for children and adults to learn, play and interact with one another.

5. Increase the stock of high quality housing that is affordable.

6. Create and strengthen community pride.

Chapter 5 of this document outlines specific actions that the community, the City and other agencies will collaborate on to address the numerous opportunities for improvement that



Residents hard at work during community meetings

were identified in the planning process. At a community workshop in June of 2001 a list of 77 improvements was presented and the community members voted for their highest priorities. The ten highest priority improvements, are listed below and discussed in greater detail in Chapter 5.

Ten Highest Priority Improvements

1. Preserve and Improve the Tropicana Shopping Center
2. Traffic Calming
3. Develop Affordable Housing
4. Develop New Community Uses and Facilities & Reuse Hank Lopez and

Hillview Library Site for Community Uses

5. Soundwalls
6. Sidewalk Repair and Installation
7. Increased Police Presence
8. Improve Existing and add additional Homework Centers
9. Remove Abandoned or Inoperable Vehicles
10. No Parking During Street Sweeping

All 77 of the improvement ideas are presented in summary format in the Action Matrix at the end of Chapter 5.



Residents of EastValley/680 Communities at a community meeting



Councilmember Nora Campos at an EastValley/680 Communities NAC meeting

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